



Smashed Images

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(member of the 'rockagainstreigion.org' conspiracy)

***Attila the Stockbroker
Daddy Longleg
Palestine/Israeli conflict
Heros & Zeros
Counter-Attack
Reviews***

PREFACE

Welcome in 2004. After the usual delays I can finally present the second issue of Smashed Images. Lot's of things have changed last year in both my private life as well as in the so-called punk scene. First of all I lost my girlfriend, my job and my house. While typing the preface of this issue i fully enjoy my new house, a new relation and the fact i finally found a new job.

Also within the punk scene things have changed. Issues like 11/9, the war on Iraq, Bush and in Holland the murder of that arrogant bald yuppie cunt Fortuyn by a dutch vegan created some room on the right in the 'scene'. The popularity of a website like conservativepunks.com is an example of that. On the other hand the growing tolerance for racist redneck views on HC & punk message boards is sometimes really disgusting. At least Reagan died and also this week one of those Reagan-loving Ramonés morons died.

I think for the average reader of this 'zine it will be pretty clear which political background I have. Smashed Images still proudly supports radical-left ideals and still supports a vegan lifestyle. And yes, I'm still cynical ☺.

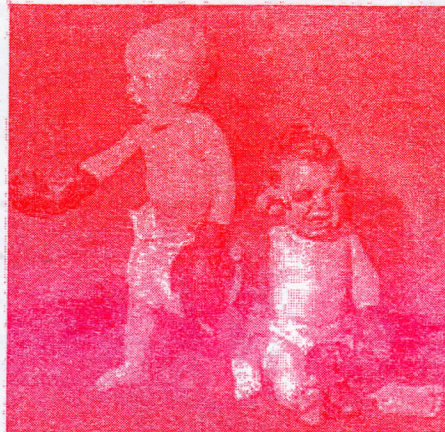
While typing these last words I'd like to thank the bands/people involved this issue for sharing their time, X-alex-X for helping out with copy printing and Milena.

At last I'd like to thank Steve Ripping Thrash & Isy Morgenmuffel for grammar corrections. (hey Stinkebink, I won as I'm still waiting for your 'zine!).

PS. If you think you should be on the thank list as well you can fill in your name here:.....

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PS. Action still speaks louder than words... so check out:

<http://bprcmoetdicht.org>

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<http://security.resist.ca/>

<http://anarchistblackcross.org>

<http://antifa.net>

<http://spiritoffreedom.org.uk/>



Attila The Stockbroker

As i organise several gigs a month in a local squat i get the opportunity to see many bands from all over the world. On a Sunday evening in June the english poet Attila the Stockbroker visited our place with his punkband Barnstormer. In the afternoon Attila had already done a 1 1/2 hour solo gig at a communist festival in Germany, and as it was the last day of the tour all members were quite tired. In between dinner (their only vegan meal on tour @), sound-check and the gig there was some time left for a small chat with Attila, a 45-year old punk who's still wearing his Lenin-pin with pride.

To those who don't know you, can you briefly introduce yourself?

I'm Attila the Stockbroker. My living is being a poet and songwriter since 1981. I started in the punk scene, right at the beginning of punk. I played bass-guitar in some punk bands back then. From 1980 i decided it would be interesting to get on stage on my own, to do poetry.

That went quite well and from 1982 i've been travelling around all over the world to do my poetry and play songs on the mandolin. I've done about 15 albums, four books and all kinds of compilation stuff.

In 1994 i formed my band Barnstormer to play my songs. Since then the band sometimes plays in Mainland-Europe, but with the band i mostly play in the UK and i do more solo-gigs here. So mainly i'm a poet and songwriter with a punkrock band that also has a strange mediaeval tongue to it.

How did you get involved in this whole punk thing and how has it influenced your life?

Actually i'm gonna do a song tonight about this called 'Commadante Joe', because what really inspired me was the Clash. I mean, the punk thing means many different things.

But to react to the things you wrote in your booklet (he's referring to the programme-leaflet of the squat where there's quoted something he said about Sex Pistol's "Anarchy in the UK"). What i actually said about chess was this; if instead of singing "i'm an anti-christ, i'm an anarchist" Johnny Rotten had said, "i'm a chess player" there would probably loads of punks with chessboards on their back. I'm not an anarchist, but i have many friends who are and i have lots of sympathy with anarchism. But what i meant by that is that anarchism is supposed to be about thinking for yourself and not just putting an 'A' in a circle on your jacket, because you think that's what punkrock is about.

But to answer your question, before punk i was interested in different kinds of music. I love the stuff of MC5, Velvet Underground and Mott the Hoople. I also loved some strange style of crowd rock. Punk was just an extension of the stuff i was listening to, it was not suddenly. The great thing about punk was the politics and the idea that everyone could get up on stage and start performing. That was the main message that got through to me, instead of "that's the band and that's the audience".

I always was a musician, i played bass guitar in the late '70s. Then i realised that just playing the bass was not what i wanted to do, so i started with the poetry and make songs myself on the mandolin.

Punk has been a huge inspiration to me. When i saw the Clash it was everything i wanted with music; it was politics and culture coming together, that's just amazing! That was in 1977 and it inspired me to do what i'm doing now. I like all kinds of music and the main thing i like are lyrics and the words. I like people who've got something to say, who're different and critically about the world we're living in, whatever sort of music it may be. One of my favourite songwriters/musicians of all time is the Belgian songwriter Jacques Brel, for exactly the same reason. 'Cause in a completely different way he was as critical about the society he lived in as the Clash or the Sex Pistols were. So i like all sorts of stuff, but punk inspired me absolutely.

You are 45 right now, did you ever think about just quitting playing and all the uncertainty that comes with it?

That's a very funny question. It's an interesting thing that rock music is connected with being young, while nobody ever says to a painter or someone who's playing the violin in an orchestra "you're 40, so you're not going to do that anymore". Anyway, I have a wife and four children. I always made this quite clear to everyone who puts me on or organises gigs, that this is my living. In fact i'm very proud that it is my living. I'm a socialist, so i don't expect to earn a huge load of money and i don't want more than in need to support my family.



It's an interesting thing that for some people in the scene playing in a band is supposed to be something you don't do to earn any money and if you do, you are a capitalist or whatever. I think that's just completely stupid. I have always been and will always be independent. I will always earn my living doing this and I have no desire to work for a capitalist boss, or to be involved in the system in any way. I won't compromise to that under any circumstances. I'm in the fortunate position that I have a good following all over the place and without compromising I can do everything I want. I'm my own organiser, my own agent, and my own manager. I publish all my books, my CD's... I'm not involved in any kind of commercial business or corporation. I do everything myself, so the only person I have to relay on is me, and I think it works. It works out really well. I'll never stop performing unless I die. I hope i'll die on stage, hopefully when i'm 85 or something but i never gonna stop. It's not an ego thing, what i love is the fact that i have the opportunity to express my ideas and talk to people about things that are important to me and the world in general.

What do you like to say to the people who say you're selling out because you make a living out of your music and poetry?

I think they're absolutely idiots and i'll go even further than that; everybody who says that is probably from a very wealthy privileged family with a mother and a father who have plenty of money, so that they can play punk for a couple of years and then go working for a boss or something. Very few people say it to me, and it can only be said by people who have no experience of life and what life means. No-one would ever say to a plumber or a carpenter "you're selling out because you earn your money being a plumber or carpenter", so why saying it to a musician? It's ridiculous, completely ridiculous to say you don't want any money... In my view it's far more selling out to play in a band and charge one cent to get into the concert and then spend the rest of your week working for a capitalist to earn your living, than the way i do, which is to say "this is how i earn myself a living and i'm very proud of that", that always works anyhow. I know that tonight we don't get very much money for this gig, but that's fine, because it's a good place and what you do is very good. Equally, some of the other gigs we got us some really good money, so in the end it all works out. It means i can do both. But the idea that earning yourself a living means you're selling out is babyish, it's spread by kids with rich parents.

Why do you play renaissance-core? Has it anything to do with the romantic idea of being a wandering minstrel or does this period inspire you?

It's simply because i like the music. It's something inside of me, i don't know why, which always responded to the sound of that particular type of music. It's nothing more or less than that. I guess it's the same reason why Shane MacGowan formed The Pogues; to play a mixture of Irish music and punk. I did exactly the same with Barnstormer, because i like middle-age music. I don't know anyone else who did it before. I knew what kind of music i wanted to play and i didn't know if it would work out

well, but it does. It sounds strange, but the people really enjoy it.

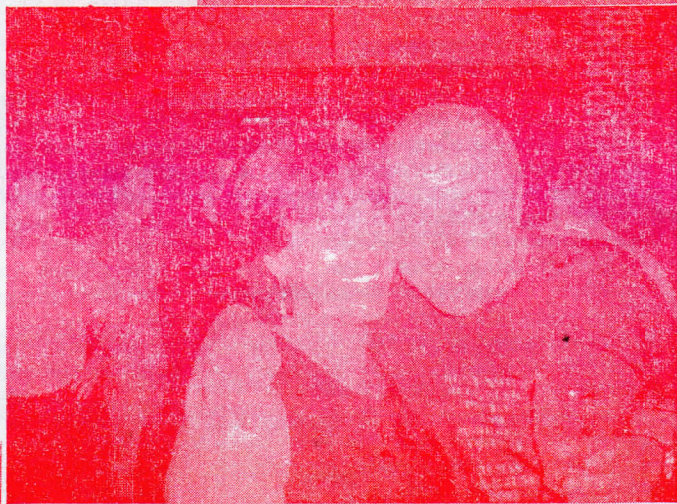
When i read your website i get the impression you're on tour for five months of the year. What are the things you hate and like most about being on tour?

There's nothing i hate about being on tour, but i miss my wife very much. Something i never forget is the reason why she has to stay at home and look after the kids and everything is because i'm on tour. Quite a traditional division of labour. I don't like that partially, but she comes with me as much as possible.

There's nothing i don't like about being on tour. I really love performing, i love talking to people; i speak french and german, i love foreign languages and i love communicating with people. The band is just great, we're all really good friends and we enjoy the music we play, so i live it. The only thing i don't like about touring is that our drummer's farts are terrible, that's the only thing i can think of.

(Laughter) and the vegan food...

No, i like it, although i make jokes about it. I think very much for myself and i surely respect people who are vegan or vegetarian. Equally i expect them to respect the fact i'm not. I don't like the idea that some people seem to have; that if you're on the left and if you're a radical, anti-capitalist or whatever that it means you must be a vegetarian. I can tell anybody who thinks that, that for hundreds of years there's been class struggle and battles in between oppressors and oppressed. The idea of vegetarianism is an idea that can only exist in an advanced society where people have enough to eat in the first place. I have absolutely nothing but respect for people who are vegetarian. For sure it's a healthy way to live, but i think it's a personal choice, which got nothing to do with a political obligation. Equally i'm totally opposed to factory farming and the methods that are used to breed animals for human consumption. I think that's wrong, but no, i'm not a vegetarian.



Once you wrote in our email correspondence that you consider yourself to be a communist, what does communism mean to you, as there're many explanations of it?

Well, i performed many times in de DDR before the wall came down, and if i was born in the east-german system i would have been about 65% in favour and 35% against what happened there. I wasn't somebody who said it was all shit. I was believed that what happened in East-Germany was basically a progressive thing, which needed to be changed, developed and made far more democratic. It should have been organised far more from the bottom than the top. I don't think it was good that the entire system collapsed and i don't think it was good that the Berlin wall came down the way it did. Because all that happened was that capitalism became a tribulation. The end of all this shit is what we see in Iraq or anywhere else. I think the existence of the sowjet-union and the eastern-block countries was a good thing, although what went on there was certainly not all good.

But i'm certainly a communist in the tradition of Marx and Lenin. I have strong links to the DKP, the German Communist Party. We just have performed at a festival for them, i guess if i was german i would be a member of it. They're quite a mainstream communist party with a good strong left tradition that some others don't have. Like the French PCH, it becomes a complete joke, while the Germans have just been recast. The festival where we just played was in a park in Dortmund with 100.000 people coming, it's fantastic, it really is.

That's better than Holland. After the 11th september and the 6th of may last year when Pim Fortuyn got shot, a strong anti-left feeling was based in society...

Oh well. Pim Fortuyn, he's a strange guy, i mean, a gay nazi? Ok, there were lots of those, but it seems very strange for me.

During the recent war on Iraq, a quite impressive and massive anti-war movement was born. Were you surprised by the amount of people demonstrating?

No, i wasn't. I think people have been looking for some time for a vehicle to express their feelings about what the Blair government is doing. Because after all those years of Thatcher and Tory governments since 1976, people were so desperate for anything, that when Blair and Labour came in they thought "at least we got rid of Thatcher". But when Blair got into power, it was basically the same kind of thing as Thatcher would do, but with a different name on it. People started to get really angry about this particular decision by these stainless politicians to go along with Blair and Bush. That was something that everybody made really, really, really angry! I'm not surprised because also after a period of great apathy among young people, there's a complete new generation of, not political aware, but political developing youth in the UK. That's certainly a good development. The kids in between 9 and 16 in the UK are massively into punkrock. My 15-year old son has a punk band, you have two generations of punkrock and that's fantastic. A lot of kids are getting interested in politics again which is brilliant, because the UK has been very depoliticised these recent years compared to Germany, France, or whatever. I always said that the UK and Holland are quite similar in terms of the lack of an obvious real hard political organisation, certainly since the last war on Iraq, some things have developed and are moving forward. There's definitely more awareness and interest in politics and more desire opposed to what's going on.



Recently an important Dutch social-democratic magazine called *Vrij Nederland* (Free Holland, started as an illegal paper during WW2) proclaimed that Blair is the true hero of the left in Europe... is he?

Well, for fucks sake! Anyone who says that is as much as an idiot as the people who say it's selling out to make a living out of your music. Blair is holding contempt. I have a song which we will play tonight about this...

I always voted for labour, but i'll never vote for them again. We have a big problem in England with the electoral system. Unlike in Holland or most of the countries in Europe there's the single vote system, which means that the person with the most votes get elected in the constituency. This makes it very difficult for small minority parties to get any form of support, because the argument always is, "if we vote for a left party and not for Labour, it splits the vote and make the Tories come in. That has always been the argument. My response to it now is that it doesn't matter. Almost i would say it's even better to have the Tories in, because then there is less confusion among the left and among the trade unions about what's happening. That's exactly the same in Germany. There's a big Schröder announce. Schröder and Clemon are starting this massive programme which causes the destruction of the welfare system. Because it's a social democratic government in power they're actually able to do more things against the trade unions, than when there's a CSU/CDU (right-wing/christian-conservatives) government in power, 'cause then the trade unions don't have any illusions.

There're people in the metal line who say "we won't vote against our government" and i respond by asking how Schröder can be their government when he's actually making hundreds of

thousands of people jobless and destroying the credit payments for the health insurance. What they're doing is just ridiculous. So in one sentence it's actually better to have the right-wing Christian democrats in power, then people won't be confused about it. Unfortunately lots of trade unionists and probably some workers think that with Labour elected it got to be better. What this moment proves is that's just shit, it isn't better at all.

Old Teenagers is a song about apathy among the teenagers of the UK. It could have been any other country in western Europe. How do you see the future? Do you think there will be next generations taking over?

Although it's a great song, i'm not doing it all the time anymore. Precisely because there's certainly in terms of music and subculture an absolutely new development. This isn't within the students, this is much younger, i'm talking about nine and ten years old who are getting bands together. It's incredible. Some of the bands with an age around 11 or 12 are actually quite good. They got t-shirts with "Fuck Blair" and all that stuff. Ok, at this moment it's obviously a simple kind of shock thing, but at least they're thinking and doing something, instead of all the techno shit that's going on.

The students are still very apathetic in England, but that's really a student thing. When i was at university i got a grant, i couldn't have gone to the university if i didn't had a grant. These days the students don't get a grant anymore, they get loans and nobody protests about it. When we were at the university and if they tried to raise the price of the sandwiches in the canteen we occupied the registry for a week until they said they were not going to do that anymore.

Also that shitty music, like Coldplay, that's what students are listening to and it's fucking awful.

The funniest thing about this is the feeling when you're young you are radical and wild and when you're old you should become a vegetable and watch the television. For my wife and me it's exactly the opposite. We're actually far more radical than a lot of people who are 25 years younger. Lots of friends of our kids look at us in astonishment. What they want is to play golf, or a nice suit.

In some countries there're many skinheads among the audience of your gigs and in Germany you release your stuff on the left skinhead label 'Mad Butcher'. How does it get along in the audience?

Oh yes, i mean, they're skinheads, not boneheads, that's the point. Nazi boneheads have attacked me on stage for three times over the last 20 years...

In the UK?

Yes. I can look after myself. I'm not frightened of idiots like that. The people that come to our gigs are the people who agree with the politics, obviously the idiots won't come.

There was a time during the beginning of the '80s when we used to have problems at gigs with fascists who caused trouble. Not just with mine gigs, but with all kind of gigs. But Anti-Fascist Action (AFA) got them out completely. They got put in hospitals enough times, so they stopped coming. In England the British National Party (BNP) has now stopped trying to be a street fighting party, they try to pretend they are respectable, they even wear suits now.

The reason why it happened is quite simple. In the early 1980's when the Oil Thing was big in England, i put some songs on Oil Compilations, 'cause i wanted to reach the people who were being influenced by fascist ideas. I never thought it was enough for me as a poet or musician to talk to the people who agree with me anyway. I wanted to get through and tried to reach people involved in that subculture. I'm a sort of skinhead as well, i like the music and in the 80's i also was a skinhead. I got lots of friends who are skinheads. I think it's very important to know that the most effective opposition to boneheads comes from skinheads, who were so pissed off about these assholes. In the media i often read that a bunch of skinheads beat up a black person, and i always say these are no skinheads, these are boneheads!

Lastly, i heard you work at a soccerclub. Why is soccer so special for you?

(laughter) I'm the poet in residence, the PA announcer and the DJ at Brighton, my local club. You should look at the website, it explains everything, but basically i'm a supporter of Brighton since i was seven, so that's 38 years 'till now.

In 1997 our club was taken over by an asshole called Bill Larger, a property speculator. He sold the ground of the club, for two years we had to play our home matches about 100 kilometres away. We, the fans, organised a massive protest about what was going on. Actually it was one of the most effective grass roots working class protests there has been in

England for a long time. Everybody around the country knew what we, Brighton fans, were doing. We demonstrated in London, we invited ourselves at the house where the bastards lives and told him to piss off. But it all went in a quite peaceful way, we didn't got any bad publicity... We organised a national boycott against the company he was the chairman of. What happened was that politics overlapped culture. The fact that i love football was overlapped by the fact that this capitalist asshole, was destroying the team of the club that i love. So all these things came together and i became the leader of the Brighton fans who were opposing all this shit.

The good thing about that was that many of our fans got interested in politics. Some of them are quite right-wing, racist, sexist and sort like tendencies, but they learned from this fight to save the football club that capitalism fucks things up. I mean, how did the guy got involved? Only because he got hold on the shares from an alcoholic, the former chairman, so he could easily close the club down. Lot of ordinary Brighton fans learned a lot about capitalism from that particular experience and it changed quite a lot people's view.

I'm a big St.Pauli fan too. Probably you know something about St.Pauli?

I don't like football that much, but i know them as a german antifascist football club...

Yeah, they have 70.000 fans and most of them are anti-fascist. They have a really good political subculture. Football is a great way of reaching people, the same way as Oil.

It will never be enough for me, just to be a nice poet, do nice gigs, etc. The thing for me always was to get out and talk to ordinary people and to get out on the street. It may sound like a cliché, but it's true, not in a false kind of way, but it's where i belong. It's just me and how i am. I'm not a prestigious arty sort of person. All i want is having a laugh, having a beer and doing my poems and songs. It fits in really well. I mean, i do poetry before the home games of Brighton and a lot of people listen to it. Of course, some people think "oh, fucking poetry", but most of them accept it, 'cause they know i was really involved in the fight to save the club. But lots of people like it anyway and that's good.

Ok, that's it for now. Do you have any closing comments?

Well yes. With Barnstormer we like to do more gigs in Holland and maybe we do a tour just in Holland at the end of this year. I enjoy playing here, i like the fact that people have such a good command of english that i actually can get my words across. I speak german, so i'm doing Germany in a different way. But anyway, we're looking for more gigs at the end of this year, so if anyone is interested, get in touch.

For contact, orders, gigs or to subscribe to the mailing list, take a look at;

<http://attilathestockbroker.com>

or write to;

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Daddy Daddy Daddy LONGLEG LONGLEG LONGLEG

Somewhere in February this year the german anarchist punk band played in our squat in Nijmegen, Holland. After the gig I had an interesting talk about their music and about the german left. Later on I send them some questions for an interview in issue#2 of Smashed Images. Thanks to Luz and Carsten for answering

1) When did the band started, who are the bandmembers and what do they do in daily life? What did you released so far?

Luz: We started in september 1991. Holgi transports parcels & goods and sings and plays drums. Wolfi is a Dr. of geology and plays guitar - the more difficult parts. I studied sociology, I'm working as a cook, in education for adults and play guitar and sing.

Carsten: I worked as an editor in Frankfurt but I did an occupational change back to the University of Münster. That's an advantage for the band. I have more time left for music now.

Luz: In the first years we've released a couple of demo-tapes. The first vinyl was released in 1994, a split-7" with JELLY GRUEL from Coesfeld. Our first 10"-LP - "nada" (spanish: nothing) - was published in 1997 with 9 songs on our small anarchist DIY-Label "Falling Down Records" (<http://www.free.de/bankrott/fdr.html>). The next 10"-LP "UNREST" was published in 1999, also on F.D.R., and on TWISTED CHORDS. Then we released a split-7" with LADGET, again on Twisted Chords & FDR. The last one - a split-LP with PETROGRAD from Luxemburg in 2001 on FDR. We will release a new LP in this summer. A few DIY-Labels are interested, you too?

Two of us are members of an autonomous collective that organizes concerts in Münster - "Das Schwarze Gespenst". If we have any benefits, we donate it to leftist projects & groups. If dutch bands want to play here, write us: => gespunst@gmx.de

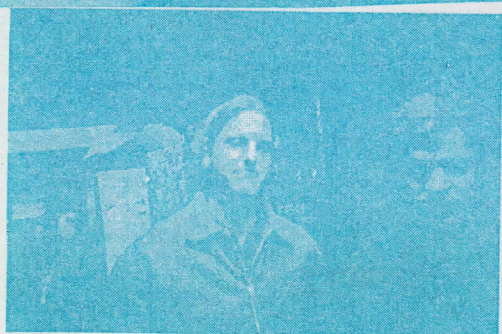
2) Recently you did some gigs in Holland, how was it? Are there any significant differences in between playing in Holland and Germany? I know the dutch audience is quite lame and boring... which other countries have you played so far?

Carsten: I couldn't recognize any significant differences. But it seemed to be the wrong season to play in Holland. It was snowing and many potential concertgoers did stay away. Perhaps Dutch audience is a little sensitive to cold. ;-)

Luz: We had a lot of fun!!! And some very interesting discussions.

3) Some of the members are involved in infoshop Bankrott, can you tell something more about it?

Well, since 1995 the "Infoladen Bankrott" has organized more than 200 events (films, discussions, infos etc.) about feminism, anarchism, anti-fascism, anti-nuke, anti-racism, ecology, privatization, education, anti-militarism etc... We invite people from all over the world, who explain their struggles. We sell libertarian newspapers, magazines, records and books. It's an anarchist collective that tries to contribute a little bit to the global network of counter-information from below.



4) and there's also a record label...

Luz: Yes, we founded Falling Down Rec. in 1995. Until now, we've published 23 releases. We published some tapes and CD-Rs in solidarity with the anti-nuclear-power movement, the Zapatistas, an anarchist publishing house (Trotzdem Verlag), the Infoladen Bankrott, antiracist groups...

We also published some bands like ALLIANCE, EL MARIACHI, KOYAANISQATSI, KOBAYASHI and even a songwriter: BAXI; the most of them are very good friends. Normally there are several DIY-labels that support these bands and so it works quite well. We trade records with other Labels / Bands. I think this kind of "alternative trading network" really functions a little bit and represents an alternative.

Since december 2003 we have a growing exchange with a mexican anarchist label called KLAT (collective against all).



5) In the past i was more often in Germany and in german left magazines i read about the "anti-germans". This is probably something that can only exist in Germany. Can you please tell something more about "anti-germanism"? How does it influence the german left movement?

Luz: This is quite complicated. Well, in the beginning (5 years ago) there was a very very strong need for a discussion about antisemitism within the left - particularly in Germany! This discussion was and IS very important. But our impression is, that the "hardcore-wing" of the "anti-germans" is creating a new "main contradiction" in the process of understanding human societies. Decades before, the dogmatic marxists always claimed: "If we abolish capitalism, we won't have any problem with racism and sexism". We think, that's wrong. There is no "superior" problem. The women and all non-white people had to fight very hard to reach the understanding, that there's a great complex of different forms of oppression and domination. If you abolish capitalism, there is no automatism. Sexism and racism will go on, if you don't fight it!

Nowadays, the "hardcore-anti-germans" accuse nearly everybody to be "structurally antisemitic". Their main "target" are the people who are mobilizing against capitalist / neoliberal globalization. They accuse many people to have a "shortened criticism" of capitalism. There are some continuities to dogmatic marxists-leninists.

Many "hardcore-anti-germans" say, they think it's ok, what the government of Israel does. Many "hardcore-anti-germans" say they were in favour of the USA, in favor of the war in Iraq!!! That's nearly unbelievable! Some of them even went to antifascist demonstrations with flags of the USA!!! We can't understand this. I think, this "hardcore"-faction has lost the consciousness of emancipation, of the libertarian / anarchist left, to fight every form of oppression. Their publications are very "know-it-all"-style. A lot of people don't like this! That's not very sympethatic!!!

How I already said, the discussion about antisemitism is very important, but the "hardcore"-faction is acting, as if they knew the ONLY truth. They criticize nearly everything, that does the rest of the autonomous left. In some city the autonomous scene already is divided. There are even (verbal oder ideological) fights between friends! But this "hardcore"-faction still is in the minority. I think, their greatest time is over.

We have to discuss, but in a constructive way. We have to fight for a just world. We have to fight the structures that create injustice. Against all authority. Finally it's important for me to say, that I'm a straight anti-nationalist, in this sense, I'm "anti-german", too. Very confusing... :-) But you're right, this kind of being narrow-minded (like the "hardcore"-faction of the anti-germans) is VERY german... and sad. Struggling for justice can be fun !!!

6) Some of you are also active in a EZLN solidarity group. What, in your eyes, is so inspiring about them, even after the many compromises they made last years?

Luz: I don't know, about what "compromises" you are talking about? The zapatistas are a very straight movement, they are very honest to their basis, to all the communities who support their guerilla, the EZLN. They really are building a new form of society. I've been three times in Chiapas (I returned this January). Members of our collective "Gruppe B.A.S.T.A." (www.gruppe-basta.de) visit the zapatistas since 1995. Of course there are no "holy persons" on this planet! Nobody is perfect, that's clear!!! But I think, the zapatist form of democracy and collectivism is very inspiring. Perhaps it's a kind of "modernization" of the Anarcho-Syndicalism or radical democracy... We've talked to feminists in Mexico, who say, that they were absolutely astonished, when the EZLN said in 1994, that militant resistance doesn't stand "above" the resistance of oppressed housewives, exploited workers or discriminated homosexuals. That was absolutely new. They don't want to rule. They want a change from below.

In some parts of Chiapas they are realising a true form of self-administration. It's a movement, that is anti-racist, anti-sexist and anti-capitalist. And they try to avoid dogmatism. One can see that, if one visits the different regions of Chiapas; every region realizes its own form of autonomy. What is very sympathetic, is, that they don't claim to have ONE truth, they always say, "we have to move on asking" - "we are just asking" - "the society in general has to discuss and find their answers collectively". And their most important slogan is "todo para todos!" - "all for all!"

7) What are your fave non-punk records?

Carsten: I like some of the Scandinavian Rock-Bands like Hellacopters or Gluecifer. They are not political but they know how to party. In fact they are also very close to punk. But once upon a time Metal was the law! :-)

Luz: In addition to punk I like music from latin america, Mercedes Sosa, Daniel Viglietti, Victor Jara and all this stuff. But also artists like Manu Chao or: Chumbawamba - I know you'll beat me!!! :-)

8) What are the band's future plans and do you have any closing comments?

Carsten: I hope we can do gigs in Holland again very soon.

Luz: We'll publish a new LP in Summer. And we are very interested in building up contacts with activists and bands from the NL and every other country of the world! Smash the system! Anarchy is freedom!



contacts & record trades are welcome:

DADDY LONGLEG, c/o Infoladen Bankrott, Dahlweg 64, D-48153 Münster, Germany, falling-down@gmx.de, www.free.de/bankrott/DADDY_L.html

The Palestine/Israeli conflict

an interview with Arthur Bruls

The last interview i did to finish the 'zine was with Arthur Bruls, a comrade living in the same city as i do, who's active within the Palestine solidarity movement for quite some years now. The Palestine/Israeli conflict is a complex subject where people can talk about for hours and hours. This was exactly what Arthur did, sometimes the answer diverged from the questions and sometimes i had to curtail his enthusiasm while telling about the Palestine/Israeli conflict. Although we tried to discuss this subject in a critical but respectable way it wouldn't surprise if there're people who think the content of this interview is offending. For next issue reactions are welcome.

Can you shortly introduce yourself and the activities you're involved in?

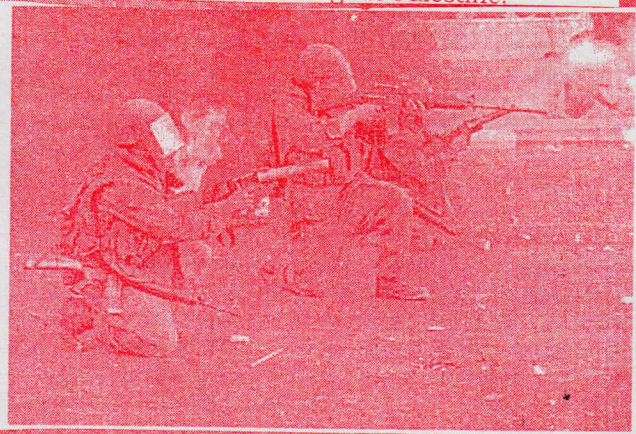
My name is Arthur Bruls. I'm member of the Dutch Palestine Committee (NPK) and the SAP (Socialist Alternative Politics, the Dutch section of the 4th International). The SAP is a small organisation that strives for a democratic and self-controlling socialism. We're an international organisation and have contacts with various big socialist organisations in other countries. We're active in various important social movements, like unions, international solidarity committees, and squatting movements. Actually all sorts of areas people are active in. The NPK is an organisation which started back in the sixties. One of the founders of the NPK was Piet Nak. Nak was one of the people involved in the organisation of the February strike in Amsterdam during WWII. It was the only strike in Europe against the deportation of the Jews in WWII. Maybe because he had the idea that he had done everything he could do against the deportations of the Jews, he didn't have a guilt complex. That made it easier for him to speak out against Israel. One of the reasons why people in Holland did not dare to speak out about the oppression of the Palestinians by the Israeli state was that they had the idea that they have failed in WWII. Most people still are perplexed by the fate of the Jews during WWII, but people do no longer believe that they cannot speak about Israel. Another reason is, of course the terrible current situation in Palestine. Right now it's even more extreme than it was the last few years.



But back to the NPK: We publish a magazine called Soemoed. We also give lectures about Palestine and we're busy with the organisation of a consumers boycott of Israel. In a military sense Israel is a very strong country, but economically it's not that strong. It's a country which is very dependent on foreign and especially US tax money. According to some people the US government spend, per capita, more money on Israeli people than on its own people.

Can you briefly describe the history of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict?

In Europe the Jews always have been an oppressed minority. During the end of the 19th century this became worse and worse. Most Jews were living in the east of Europe. Up to that time most of them had found themselves jobs within small trade business or as craft workers (shoemaker, textile production, etc). During that time industrialisation comes up and lots of people become poorer. It's also the time of increased nationalism and Jews are oppressed more than ever. Many Jews see emigration as a solution. The biggest group goes to the US, but also to Western Europe. A small part of the group decides to go to Palestine as some parts of the holy books say that Palestine is the Promised Land. Actually this isn't that unambiguous, there are still Jews who are against the immigration of other Jews to Palestine for religious reasons. However, the fact remains that there are groups of Jews who go to Palestine.



In Western Europe not all Jews were happy with the immigration of many new Jews. They feared growing discrimination and thought it would be a good idea to send those new Jews to Palestine. What happened was that richer Jews in Western Europe and the US started financing the Zionist movement. One of the things that happened was the foundation of the Jewish National Fund. What then happened was quite outrageous: via the JNF Palestine land was bought from Palestinian landlords. This land had to be sold vacant. The Palestine farmers who were working on the fields were dislodged and on the empty fields the Jewish immigrants created Kibbutz. In Eastern Europe Jews hardly worked in agriculture, so if you put some people together on a field it won't work out then. The kibbutz has a collective character to teach a group of people how to work in agriculture. Slowly a Jewish society grew up within the Palestinian society. This development was pushed quite fanatically. For example: if you were a Jewish small builder, it was quite interesting for you to recruit Palestinian workers. They had and have a lower standard of living, so you could pay them less. During that time there were Jewish 'unions' who organised boycotts against companies who recruited non-Jewish workers.

In Palestine the tension grew between Jews and Arabs. The Jewish society excluded Arabs and it became clear that the Jews wanted an own state in Palestine.

Actually the UK used the Jewish people. Up to 1918 Palestine was part of Turkey, but after WWI the Middle East was divided between France and the UK. The British thought: "if we support a weak group over there who are in conflict with the Arabs, then that group is always dependent on us and we can use them for our own interests". Nowadays Israel still has that function, but it is for the US.

After WWII the UK and France were losing power in the Middle East, they were replaced by the US. After WWII more and more Jews migrate to Palestine and at some point Zionist leaders decide they're strong enough to found an own state. At the end of the '40's Israel is a fact.

What happens next is that the Arab countries that just became independent from the UK start a war against Israel. The Arab countries prepared this war very badly and very soon they got beaten. But there's more that happens during this war. Back then there were not enough Jews to make Israel a state with a Jewish majority. During the war several things happened. On one side there are Palestinians who leave Palestine because of the war. On the other hand ethnic cleansing took place, carried out by the Israeli army. From then on the problem of the Palestine refugees exists.

From the end of the '60's Israel was involved in several wars with Arab countries. The most important war is that one of 1967, the so-called six-days-war. During that war Israel occupies two areas: The Western Jordan Bank and the Gaza Strip. Like I said earlier, lots of Palestinians fled from Israel at the end of the '40's. A large number ended up in these two areas. These Palestinian refugees live here together in very little space in refugee camps. Until then the Arab Jews were a discriminated group within Israel. Now Israel occupied two new areas, the Palestinian refugees become the new discriminated group. Now more and more land is stolen from the Palestinians, they don't have many other options left then working for Israeli economy; in factories, building, and street sweeping. For Israel this has several advantages; because these Palestinian workers don't have the Israeli nationality, the Israeli State isn't responsible for healthcare. It's very easy to exploit these Palestinian workers. On the other hand a big part of the Israeli lower class moves up to middle-class and they achieve a quite high living standard. Israel needs this as they're always busy attracting new Jewish immigrants and a country with a low living standard is very unattractive to new immigrants.

The Palestinians never could accept the dislodging of their land and the marginalisation within the Israeli society. But not all Palestinians left Israel. About 20% of the Palestinians stayed in Israel. They are Israeli citizens, but they don't have all the civilian rights. Just like in South-Africa you can see that a group of people is being discriminated because of their origin, in this case Jew or non-Jew, which means being part of a privileged group or not. The conflict has too often been described as a conflict between nations or between religions, but that's not true. It's a conflict between people with completely different positions in society. Israel as a Jewish state is fundamentally discriminating people who are not Jews. This is a big difference to, for example, Kurdistan. If you live in Kurdistan, but you speak Turkish well and you

'behave Turkish' then it is possible to climb up within Turkish society. This, of course, is a really terrible situation, but the fact remains that it is possible to climb up. If you live in Israel, but you are Palestinian, it doesn't matter if you speak Hebrew and 'behave like a Jew', it's even criminal according to Israeli laws! In the past people of the ANC visited Israel. They saw the system of different roads and said they never knew anything like that in South Africa. It's just a detail, it's completely bizarre, but when these roads cross the traffic lights of the Israeli road are longer green. More tragic things happen too, Palestinian people who need to go to a hospital die because the ambulances have to wait for hours at army checkpoints.

You have used the word Zionism a few times. How will you describe the word Zionism?

Zionism means striving for an own Jewish state. Jewish is meant as all people who are descended from religious Jews no matter if they still are religious Jews.



Already during the beginning of the 20th century there were some socialist Zionists who warned that Zionism never should become a new form of imperialism. Do you think this was naive?

I think this was an illusion already in the past, but let's talk about the current situation now. The Israelis who live in Israel nowadays are mostly people who were born there. They speak Hebrew and there's an Israeli culture. These people can't emigrate back and I don't want them to do so. I think the Israeli people who live in Israel nowadays are forced to seek a solution and to find different ways of living together with the Arabs.

Because it has the function of a shield against the Arabs, the Israeli state receives lots of money from foreign countries, for an Israeli army, for an Israeli weapon industry, etc. Although Israel is a militarily strong country it's still very dependent on foreign countries. Sometimes I hear the reproach that people who are involved in the Palestine solidarity movement don't care about the situation of Jewish people. I say that the strong dependency is a big danger for Israeli people. If you say "go ahead" to people like Sharon because the US will support you anyway, what will happen if the US will say one day "we won't support you anymore, because we don't need you anymore". That is a big danger! Just have a look at Rwanda and the Hutus and the Tutsis. When it still was a Belgian colony one group was in favour at the cost of the other. They were used by the Belgians to oppress the others. One day the Belgians left the colony and stopped their support. What will happen now?! (ed: 1.000.000 people died during the terrible conflict that followed) Another example is the South-Moluccan people in Holland. They were used to fight for Dutch imperialism and to oppress other people over there. One day the Netherlands left and what happened with the South-Moluccan people? (ed: after

Indonesia became independent from the Netherlands lots of South-Moluccan people emigrated to Holland. Now they're still fighting for an own state and the Dutch government refuses every support.). This is a big danger for Israeli people. Who will guarantee that the US will keep on supporting Israel forever and ever? Who can guarantee that the US wants this? When this is not the case any more, Israeli people will stand all alone.



As solution for the Palestinian/Israeli conflict you suggest the one-state option. Can tell me your idea behind this?

If I say I argue for a one-state solution it means this state can have all different forms. Switzerland is also one country, but exists of several autonomous regions. I don't know if there it needs to be a real nation-state, or a federation of a Palestinian and an Israeli part. I think it's very important that when one starts to think about a solution for the conflict, equal rights should be the base of it. It doesn't make any sense to me to think which form that state will have, because this will be a result of political struggle. It also has to do with the fact how Israeli people will react to this struggle. Maybe there will, finally, arise a large Israeli movement against the current situation. In this situation the mutual relations are friendlier.

I think the idea of two different states is a reactionary idea. During the '80s right-wing people in South-Africa suggested a different state for white and a different state for black people. Right-wing parties in Israel argue for an independent Palestine. By this they can secure a Jewish future for Israel.



How will the recent elimination of two Hamas leaders influence the current conflict?

This will be negative for sure. On the Israeli side this will promote the idea "we're strong and we can solve this conflict by using more violence". But I don't think it will work out that way. In fact the head of the Israeli army said last year that it's becoming difficult

for the Israeli army to continue their strategy. It's just not possible to solve any problem with violence.

For the Palestinian side it's negative as well. People get the idea they have no rights at all. In Holland Sjeik Yassir is always portrayed as a fundamentalist. He is, but he's also someone who consequently fought for the rights of the Palestinian people. If there's a colleague at your work who's a Christian homophobe, but who's an honest person who's always willing to help out other colleagues, then it's difficult to enter a confrontation. That's why the Hamas has a large following. The feeling of impotence in Palestine is so big that some people will automatically believe that suicide attacks are the only way to find a solution. But the Hamas is not only an organisation that puts people on the bus with a bag full of bombs. It's also a charity organisation. The Hamas has doctors and people in refugee camps. It's an organisation that really does something for Palestinian people in poverty.

If a younger person lives in the Gaza Strip, then her/his future is just hopeless. It's impossible to travel to other countries. The people are poor and it's very difficult to go to school. So where can you go to? One of the few things left is religion. One of the reasons why Hamas is that big is just because for years and years many left organisations in Europe and the US were afraid of criticising the Israeli politics. Through this, right-wing and religious organisations grew.

In the Dutch left movements there's a discussion whether to cooperate with radical Islamic organisations or not. What's your idea about this?

I think cooperation on certain specific goals is surely possible. I'll give an example. During a pro-Palestine demonstration in 2002 money was collected for Islamic Relief, an organisation that sent medicine and doctors to the Gaza Strip. I think everyone has the right to receive health care.

The fact you cooperate with other people or organisations doesn't mean you don't criticise them. When you're politically active and you declare your solidarity with a group of people it doesn't have to mean this group is perfect. Someone can work against the discrimination of women, but there are lots of conservative stupid women. Someone can fight against discrimination of gays, but there are also lots of conservative stupid gays. But it's not an issue of "are all women and gays nice?", the issue is "can we accept discrimination of women and gays?". I don't think that Palestinians are better people than Israelis, but they are oppressed by the Israeli state. For that reason I'm in solidarity with Palestinians who are a victim of this oppression and with Israelis and Palestinians who struggle against this oppression.

On TV we only hear news about the Hamas and similar groups, but which leftwing organisations are active in Palestine?

People often talk in a degrading way about the Palestinian left. I think that's ridiculous, because it is at least bigger than the Dutch left. For example the environmental organisation Pango is very active in the struggle against the Wall. There are several organisations active with projects for women, children, and handicapped people, the environment, and education. I think it's a pity that the media mainly shows the violence and the suicide attacks and not the daily injustice against people and their legitimate daily struggle.

Interesting websites:

<http://www.isg-fi.org.uk/fi/fi1.htm>

(fourth international, where Arthurs is involved in)

<http://www.grenzeloos.org>

(dutch section)

<http://www.palestina-komitee.nl/>

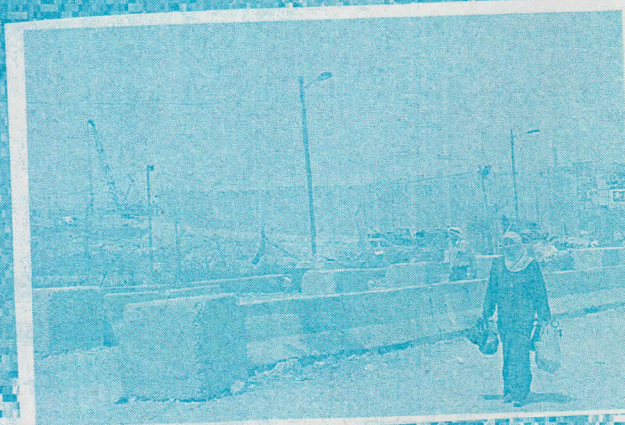
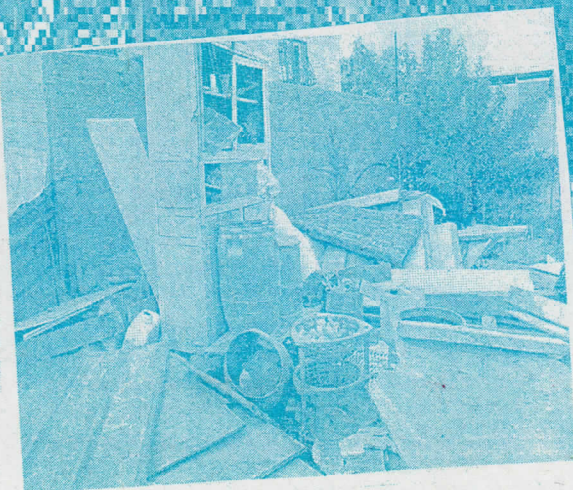
(dutch Palestine committee)

<http://www.palsolidarity.org/>

(International Solidarity Movement)

<http://www.stopthewall.org/>

(grassroots Palestinian campaign)



Attila the Stockbroker : live in Belfast CD

21 tracks here, half poems, half music. Although poems like "the Iraqi weapons inspectors report" are funny to listen to I prefer reading instead of listening, as my english isn't that good.

The music tracks are solo, just vocals and a mandola. Nice listening for sure, but I prefer Attila with his band Barnstormer. See elsewhere this zine for an interview. (www.attilathestockbroker.com)

Asebia: face of civilization 12" (DIY)

Another band who play that dark crusty, d-style influenced hardcore. This time much better than the average wannabe "we have dreads so we're crust" band. A year ago they played in our squat, only 7 people showed up, but the band gave all they had and played a brilliant gig. Respect for that spirit. (asebia@care2.com)

The Barnhouse Effect: life's stale repetition... 7" (DIY)

100% DIY here, even the cover was silkscreened by the band members. If you're into that modern screamo and trash hardcore you'll probably like this 7". Even although I'm usually not into it I surely like it. (edo_sch@hotmail.com)

The Big Heat: the good, the bad... LP (Knock out)

Described by their label as ska punk off beat mod. Thirteen catchy tunes, keyboards and all. All ingredients to make you dance all night are included.

The Dangerfields: hell ride mCD (rock'n'roll records)

After an overwhelming live set my expectations of this CD where high. Unfortunately this CD misses that 'live feeling'. Still the 8 uptempo-punk-rock'n'roll tracks are well done, but I have my doubts about the childish lyrics in "Fuck the scene": "We don't give a fuck about SxE hypocrites, everybody knows they're full of shit". Sorry, but I can't understand why people make such a big statement about someone's drinking habits.

Dir Yassin: 7" (lavidia es un mus)

14 tracks on a 45rpm EP, that's what I call fast music. Although I'm usually not into that trash style, these israelians do a good job. I think this 7" is long enough, but they manage to keep my attention all the time. It comes with a fat booklet with background information, translations, etc.

Evil Conduct: Eye for an eye LP (knock out)

These dutch skins started back in the '80s. After one demo, which was rereleased as two EP's by Madbutcher, they called it a day. Ten years later this Oi! band reforms and now they release their second LP. Typical skin lyrics here; beer, tattoo's, anti-politics, being a skinhead... Love it or hate it, personally I love it. For sure one of the better Oi! Bands around these days. Oh, and there's also a Sham 69 cover on included (www.knock-out.de)

Fleshies: The Sicilian LP (alternative tentacles)

Once I saw this band live, only 20 people showed up, but the band just gave the maximum they had that night. It was not a gig, it was a real show, an honest show. That time the singer decided not to put off his clothes, but still ran his ass off, climbed on the tables... And the adience liked it.

Their music is a mixture of punk with some us hardcore and pre-punk/'60 trash stuff, but it remains punk as it's supposed to be. (www.fleshies.net)

Gangway, Man!: muri di virtu (liberi diffusion del delirio)

Nice rocking stuff in here. Difficult to review this for me, as I usually never listen to stuff like this. I think the best description of this band is something like "a more hardcore version of No Means No or the Minutemen with some rocking parts". Really nice! (www.deldelirio.tk)

Gertrude: up the wrong tree CD (urban missfits)

I got this CD for free after a gig of these radical-feminist band in our squat. The live show was surely impressing. This CD misses a bit of the energy their gigs characterize. Still it's a nice combination of punk, pop, rock and bands like Sonic Youth, No Means No and instruments as cello, flutes. (www.gertruderock.com)

Gride/Cockroach: split 7" (kaz re-chords)

Czech Gride kick ass as usual; fast gridecore, grinding powerviolence or whatever you want to call it. The drummer is really amazing, I once say him live while on tour with

Malignant Tumour (czech mince/grind band by that time); incredibel fast and powerful.

On the other side there're some tracks by the dutch Cockroach. Nice people and live they are really good, but for some reason their records never attracted me. They re-recorded five old songs here. (uhlik.radoslav@orange.sk)

Hachazo/Fuck Street Noise: split CD

First of all, I don't like split CD's (how about vinyl?), but anyway, how else can you release over 60 minutes of music that cheap? Hachazo from Spain dissapoint me a bit, although the first two songs start as uptempo hc/punk, it get ruined by the metal influences. And yes, I do like lots of metal stuff, but still I don't think it's a good idead to mix it. FSN on 'the other side' do a better job; trashy death metal core, a touch of grind and both screaming and gore grunting vocals. Unfortunately I don't speak spanish, but when reading the booklets and seeing the pictures I suppose both bands have radical-left/@ orientated lyrics. (<http://www.hachazo.es.vg/>)

Jesus Skins: unser kreuz braucht... LP (knock out)

These germans combine raw Oi!, beer and christianity! They're probably the only leftwing christian skinhead band worldwide. Lyrics deal with churchasylum, naziscum ("77 heisst grüss Gott und 88 nazischrott"), drinking beer, going to church. The songs are well recorded with two singers, to prevent boredom. A 'hell' of a record.

La Fraction: aussi long sera le chemin LP (skuld)

Their third record i think, anyway, you've probably heard of this band, for those who don't, shame on you! Also this time the band plays a mix of melodic punk a small touch of hardcore and female vocals. Lovely.

The Last Mile: designed to compensate... 7" (UPS)

Their 10" was good, but this is better. Think of Shikari with low and deep growling vocals, low tuned guitars and a five-snare bass. Kick ass! (www.upspunk.tk)

**Los Fastidios: ora basta mCD (madbutcher/kobrecords)**

Without any doubt this band is one of the best european streetpunk bands. As I don't have their newest (third) record yet, I review this mCD. It's a bit a goody to keep people satisfied while waiting on their new record. This CD contains three new uptempo melodic streetpunk tunes with a strong left-wing message, a cover of the french redskin band Brigada Flores Magon and videoclips of the songs "Animal Liberation" and "Rabia dentro il cuore". A good new supply to your collection. (www.losfastidios.com)

Machetazo: the maggot sessions 7" (firstbloodfamily)

A double bass grind attack here... gore style singing, raw sound. Love it or hate it, I love it! (www.firstbloodfamily.com)

Makiladoras: s/t 10" (svaveldioxid + 6)

The dutch Makiladoras already gained a cult-status before they even recorded something. Not that strange of course, when most members played in several other brilliant bands before. Also during the live sets their metal punk gave the band a good reputation soon. With this 10" they make all the expectations come true. Of course it's recorded in the Bunt's studio (www.crustpunk.de)

Mangled: carnal abhorrence 7" (Fadeless records)

Probably one of the longest existing dutch death meat bands. The A-side contains two tracks from the 2002 promo and the B-side contains covers from Cannibal Corpse and

Morbid Angel. Although I never really understood why people like Morbid Angel, Mangled plays the songs convincing. (www.fadelessrecords.com)

Nirvana; Wipeout LP (bootleg)

For fuck's sake, this is really cool stuff. Not a crappy CD, but the real stuff, the good old vinyl. 13 tracks recorded live in the studio sometime in 1990, which is according to me their best period. The sound quality is as it supposed to be, raw & honest, not as 'Nevermind' or so. Try to find this one somewhere.

Rashit: Kapak Güzelleri LP (darbouka/strongly opposed)

After listening to thousands of punk records there're not that many bands who succeed in impressing me. Rashit is one of the few who surely blow me away. These Turkish punks combine (anarcho) punk with Turkish folk music, a bit of ska, horns... melodic, powerful, political. If I should give points for this record it would 95 out of 100. Just brilliant!

Rats: revolt against the system (DIY)

15 tracks of uptempo punk with both male and female vocals to make your mohawk go up and down. Lyrics deal with subjects as war, vivisection, police, work... Best listened with two fingers in the air while drinking a beer and shouting Oi! Oi! Fuck te system! (rats, pobox 2, 9550 Henzele)



Seein'Red/Shikari: split 10" (Deadlock)

The oldies of Seein'Red are becoming a new Agathocles or Spazz with their endless amount of releases. After a few dissapointing (split) EP's these tracks are really worth the vinyl!

Shikari do four tracks. After their overwhelming 'Robot Wars' 10" I just expected too much of this record, but still essential for your collection... (info@deadlock.nl)

Sedition; end in the beginning CD (Flath Earth)

Finally all stuff (except the split with Disaffect) by these pagan hippies has been collected onto disc. The sound samples by native people and the old drawings give an extra dimension to their views. Personally I have my doubts when people have their nostalgic 'back-to-earth' ideas, I mean, sexism, concurrence and capitalism aren't something from the last century or so. And although I prefer Scatha, still this band flushes most of today's screamocrustie wannabe bands away. Buy!

The Shaggable Sluts/Last To Go: young studs... split CD

After some problems with labels and all the split CD by these locals has finally been released. Last go Go kicks off with six new skastreetpunk tunes. More varied and rawer than their previous CD. The Sluts present four new snotty '77 inspired gararero'k'n'roll tunes and a cover of the Buzzcocks. Which other cover then "The Organs Addict" can you expect from a band with this name? (www.killartrock.tk)

Shikari: mCD

After a completely overwhelming debut 10" this band released a very dissapointing split 10" with Seein'Red. Finally they take revenge. These four tracks sound just as powerfull again as on their debut. Think of screamo, think of powerviolence, think of bands as Uranus with a good production. One of the best dutch bands around these days. (www.shikari.nl)

Die Skaninchen: s/t mCD (DIY)

Skapunk like i heard som many times, but with just a bit extra's to make it interesting. (www.skaninchen.de)

Social Crime: statement of rage CD (Tribal War)

What a dissapointment, a CD in a 12" sleeve! Maybe they had some covers left or so, but still I don't understand what's the sence of making a CD when you already have a 12" sleeve?! Anyway, their music puts it right again: '80s style crust with a touch of hardcore in a language I don't understand. It reminds me a bit of Argue Damnation, who're from Japan as well. In these times where everyone is into this terrible trash hype it's relief to hear this style of music.

Urban Blight: It's (a)live CDr (Urban Blight Prod.)

Again a new release by this french/dutch one-man band. This time 13 live tracks including a Clash cover. The music is simple and raw, just as punk should be. Together with the drumcomputer it gives a nice result.

The soundquality differs from song to song, but hey, that's punkrock! And besides, it's always fun to hear people in the audience talking about the band.

Vals: punk is in 7" (diy) 2003

I won't say it often, but the lay-out is not really my cup of tea. You do or computer made lay-out, or a cut-and-paste lay-out and certainly not a computermade cut-and-past lay-out! Anyway, the music is what counts; well-done peacpunk here, reminds me a bit of the first Crass LP. One of the most promising bands in Holland at this moment I think. It's about time a label will pick them up for a LP.

(www.braindisorder.org/vals)

Vanilla Muffins: the drug is football LP (knock out)

A new record by these suisse soccer nerds. The band's music is often being described as sugar Oil, but I think it's to poppy for that. What you get is 15 melodic and a bit poppy (street)punk tunes. All lyrics deal with soccer.

Warcollapse: crap, scrap and... 7" (firstbloodfamily)

A combination of HC/crust with a touch of metal. I'm happy it's a 7", because their music is too boring for a whole LP. (www.firstbloodfamily.com)

Xanjingtanahx: diminuendocorrupt...mCDr(Ugly Smokers)

Indonesian trashcore, I'm already prejudiced against trashcore, but this is also bad recorded as well. Sorry, not my cup of tea. (uglysmokers_distro@yahoo.com)

Ya Basta: lacha y fiesta LP (Maloka/twisted chords)

This French premier redskin ska finally presents her debut. Catchy ska tunes with horns and militant antifascist and anarchist lyrics. I hope they put out a new record soon.

V/a: Kopf, horen LP (DIY?) 200?

No punk in here, just (new) wave, industrial and other related stuff. Not for 'real punx' or other narrow minded nerds, but I fucking love it! Highlights are Amtrak, Brustkness & The Flamingo Massacre. As there's no contact info I suppose these german bands released this record by theirselves. (frequenzpank@yahoo.de)

V/a: Oi! Strike sampler CD (Oi! Strike)

Oi! Strike records is a side label of SOA records from Italy. On this sampler the first few 7"s of this label are collected. As on almost every sampler the quality of some bands is impressing, and some others are crap. Impressing are: Vainnal Muffins (as usual), Billyboy and La Sua Banda. Boring are: Devilskins, Razzapparte and Banda Del Rione. (www.soarecords.it)



V/a: Soa sampler 2002 CD (Soa Records)

Hardcore, fastcore/grind & Oil, enough for all of you. Bands included are Vitamin X, Strength Approach, Comrades, Ulcer, Colla Infame. (www.soarecords.it)

V/a: we gotta trash you! CDr (enduprecords)

And even more thrashcore. The sound of these recorings is so terrible that hardly hear any music. Sorry, again not my cup of tea (enduprecords@yahoo.com)

Left-wing streetpunk, for sure it exists, even in a shitcountry as Holland... Questions were answered (not always that serious ☺) by Gilian, the guitar-player.



★ HEROS & ZEROS ★

Who are the band members and how does your daily life look like?

Here we go: Marko is our singer, Anna plays bass, RC drums, Boban plays trumpet and Mali and I play guitar. We all got jobs: RC is fireman, Mali works in a library and Boban is sound engineer. Marko is, besides his job also busy with his other band Vitamin X.

Can you tell something more about the band's history?

It started in 1998 as a side project next to the bands some of us were involved back then. RC and Mali played in Soberesponse and Marko in Vitamin X. Their roots are hardcore, but Oil Was also something they were into, so they started Heros & Zeros. Just before the recordings of a demo they decided to add a trumpet player to the band and it worked out well. Mad Butcher released the demo as a 7" and soon after it I joined the band as second guitar-player and then we were complete.

Some of the band members have a SxR background. Isn't it a big swerve to form a streetpunk band?

It isn't really possible is it? But actually Marko is the only one who still keeps his hands of alcohol, for the rest of the band it's already history. Also for Marko there will be no help, also he had to start, but right now he doesn't make headway.

When it comes to the music it's for sure something different, but everyone in the band has a different taste, different influences and a different background. I think this all comes back into our sound. You can still hear the hardcore-influences. We're not really a band who shouts Oil in every song or only sings about beer. But in the end we're still just herberts.

Within the Dutch Oil/streetpunk scene you can be considered as an illegitimate child. Isn't it very frustrating for you? For what sort of audience do you mostly play?

Tss, we're not an illegitimate child, we create trends you know! Soon every Oil Band has a SxR singer, a trumpeter and left-wing bullshit in between the songs. But yes, you're right, but frustrating & no, not really. We don't want to be restricted by a scene and for us it isn't really important if we are part of some scene. We play where we got invited. In Holland we mainly play for punks and less for skins, there aren't that many in Holland anyway. In other countries this is different. Then the audience more often exists of skins mixed with punks. We attract all sort of people, it just depends on where we play.

Your CD Wake Up Call has been released last year, how are the reactions so far?

The CD was released a bit more than a half year ago. The reactions were positive and most of the reviews were positive as well. Most people think it's original and they like it, but there are also people who don't know how to label us and then don't know what to do with our music, but for us that doesn't really matter. As a band we're happy with the result, but still it was our debut and our first recording with the current line-up. We still learn a lot and we surely think some things can be improved, so our next record will be better for sure.



To promote your CD you did a tour through other European countries. Are there big differences in between playing in Holland and other countries? I hear from several bands that Holland has a boring and indulged audience &

Sometimes I hear this as well and first I could agree with this as well. During that European tour we had a good time. Especially in the East and South-east of Europe people go wild. There are quite a lot of bands who forget these countries, so then an audience is much more enthusiastic when a foreign band comes. I think we did more gigs in Germany than in Holland and the beginning we for sure noticed this, because across the border people react with more enthusiasm. But during the last few gigs we had in Amsterdam showed us something else than the prejudices about Amsterdam and Holland and its so-called boring/indulged audience. Some people were dancing and others sang along, something I haven't seen for a while, so it's getting better.

For your 7" you recorded some songs which deal with the subject of the situation in the former Yugoslavia and the changes after the fall of Milosovic. Can you describe the impact of the last years and the war on the Serb society?

By the war and of course the political and economic situation lots of things have changed, and not everything has improved. But the fact that Milosovic was deposed by a revolution from below by common people gives us hope. That students and workers realised to depose a leader is just wonderful. But the new government is also full of shit with very less concrete plans for economical improvements. Herewith comes that there are more laws created to protect



the rich and there are unions who became illegal. But the most important is the fact there's hope under the people and that is a good sign.

Some of the band members are active within the International Socialists (Dutch section of the Socialist Tendency), can you tell a bit more about this organisation and your involvement?

It's a worldwide leftwing political organisation who organises meetings, discussions and demonstrations. The organisation was important in all big demonstrations the last few years against the war(s), G8, nazi's, Balkenende (the Dutch prime-minister) and other things which aren't cool as well. Some of us are active members, but Heros & Zeros isn't a band who will be attached to a political party. When you read our lyrics people will see what sort of things we piss us off.

Is there anything you'd like to add to this interview and when can we expect a new CD/LP?

This year we will come with something new in the format of a single, compilation or a new album or maybe all of them! We already wrote some new material and it sounds a bit different than our debut, so be aware!

Thanks for the interview! Keep on! Don't forget to check our website, www.herosandzeros.nl and the website of our label www.madbutcher.de.

*Tell your mama, tell your dad
Tell your grandma, steal from your boss*

*Anywhere you work, anywhere you walk,
Any, any, anywhere, steal from your boss*

Money or clothes, maybe both - S.F.Y.B.

*Raise your salary, cause he won't
But don't get caught, steal from your boss*

*The more the better, you just have to dare
You know it's fair, steal from your boss*

Money or clothes, maybe both - S.F.Y.B.



Zine reviews



Attitude Problem#33 (40 A5 pages) \$2ppd

Cool handwritten crust zine, with usual interviews, reviews, recipes. Nice lay out and nice interviews. (theveganwarrior@yahoo.com)

Austere zine#5/free voice#3 (+/-80 A5 pages) \$?ppd

A split by two Malaysian zines here. Mainly trashcore and SxE orientated with columns, reviews, interviews. The lay-out could be a bit less 'clean'. Good if you want to know more about the Asian scene (austere_zine@hotmail.com)

Bald Cactus#22 (32 A5 pages) 50p + postage

Long running UK anarcho-punk zine and with cut and paste lay-out, a good review of my zine and interviews with, besides Indictar, Active Minds and Conflict you can't go wrong on this one. But to be serious, interviews are well-done and interesting to read, even if I read so many interviews by active minds before.

Cups of Strong Coffee (20 A6 pages) free?

Dutch zine in here, small size, more personal/political orientated, some drawings, some slogans, some small texts... I think I'll like it when it had more to read inside. (peopleoutthere@hotmail.com)

Downsided#6 (44 A5 pages) \$3ppd

Finland is presenting itself this time... trashcore orientated zine (I really hate that name). Some letters, interviews with Out Cold, Strong Intention, Haymaker, Rythmihairio, columns... Nice read. (<http://trashandburn.net>)

Fecal Forces Zeen#10 (28 A5 pages)

Also this issue starts very nice, better lay out this time, it's all easier to read. Bands/people interviewed are Misery & Colin/Hell & Damnation, but then the second part starts and that's just total crap! Stuff about satanism, paganism, sex and magic... Pff, that's nothing for me that spiritual crap and 'back to earth religion stuff'.

Flagburner#10 (32 a5 pages)

I never read this zine before, and it's a shame i didn't. Inside there's a dutch scene report, interviews with Bora, Avaricious (brilliant band!) & Submission Hold, reviews, article on the Black Bloc (could have been more in-depth), homebrew and a travel diary. Comes with free match. (www.come.to/flagburner)

Hell and Damnation#11 (32 A5 pages) \$1

Long running UK zine, maybe my fave zine I know these days. Nice drawing, nice lay out, interesting interviews (all unknown bands who surely deserve your attention). If you like your music fast, you'll like this one! (Colin/HAD, 22 burns villas, stainforth, doncaster, S.yorks, dn7 5dp, england/uk)

Morgenmuffel#12 (28 A5 pages)

Very nice zine with small drawn stories about Isy's daily life. She writes about her garden, social centre, being a cowgirl... For sure a lovely zine! (katch0063@yahoo.co.uk)

Perro Maldito#2 (28 A5 pages)

Italian fastcore/grind zine in english with articles on copyright and some others... Furthermore interviews with Discarga, Melt Banana, Zas!rec, Headless Horseman and a tour report by the Cripple Bastards (who turn out to be quite ignorant assholes I think). (no address, but I bought my copy at UPS distro)

Rocketbottom#18 (16 A5 pages) free

Quite boring stuff. The editor interviews some bands about music stuff, etc... I don't I'd like to know these bands... Not my cup of tea (don't know the right address)

Toilet Paper zine#5 (40 A5 pages)

German zine with an interesting article about self harm, some small stories & poetry, Gertrude, Wiedzma (polish @-feminist group), reviews and more... A little bit indy orientated. A nice read anyway (Joh.Kohlmannstr.8, 53913 Swisttal, Germany)

Upheaval#9 (32 A5 pages) \$3ppd

One of the better zines around these days... The editor wrote an article about how he overcame his dope addiction, furthermore interesting interviews with See You In Hell, Social Napalm & Coaccion. Also some scene reports, reviews, articles... Funny is that there's not a single picture of drawing in this zine, but still not boring too read. Get it! (<http://geocities.com/wheresyouranger>)

Zine reviews

Counter-Attack

Actually I can't remember when I heard this Belgian band for the first time, but for sure their crass-inspired punk (especially during gigs) inspired me since the beginning. It was a pity to hear they quit very soon. About a year or two later I got some flyers of new counter-attack gigs and again I saw them several times. All the times I tried to do an interview; one time I forgot the questions, another time I forgot the tape recorder... Later on we decided to do it by mail, here's the result.

Can you introduce the band?

Counter-Attack has three members; Yvan on drums, Wim on bass/vocals and Stef on guitar/vocals. This line-up exists for 4 years now although the band is a bit older and has took different forms.

Counter-Attack quit for a while, why this reunion?

Actually it's not a reunion in the sense of the resurrection-reunions nowadays. A few years ago Wim decided to move to Ireland permanently. We agreed that it would be the end of the band. However, two years later he returned to Belgium and we all thought why not continue!

Vrijdag 28 februari

The Bastards
(crustpunk uit polem/frankrijk/brussel)
Counter-Attack
(crustpunk uit Gent, België)
Krush
(krustgigant uit Katwijk aan Zee)



Start: 21.30uur - Entree: 2,50 pleuro
Kraakdisco de Onderbroek
Tweede Walstraat 21 - Nijmegen
<http://aquat.net/nijmegen/onderbroek>
Geen honden! - No Dogs!

What's your view on the recent reunion gigs by bands such as Lärm and Conflict?

Stef; I often don't get the point. Most of these punk bands from the eighties get back together to play concerts and to record new albums. There must be still a lot of interest and maybe they want to finish what was once planned. I think it would be more interesting if they come with something new or that new bands would be promoted more instead of drooling on the privileged ones because of their punk history.

You all live in the city of Gent, which is well known for its active squatting & anarchist movement. Can you tell us something more about it?

Indeed Gent is known as a city with an active movement; none really knows how much squats there really are as the number is changing too often. There must be around 40 squats at the moment, most of them are only used as living places. Around ten squats are organising things like concerts/café's/shops/restaurants/info shops. There also is an anarchist centre where different anarchists movements have meetings and organise a restaurant.

How about Gent when it comes to punk. I know bands like Katastrophobia and Heretix...

Katastrophobia is dead for some years, but there are still people involved in bands in Gent, like the Heretix for example. A lot of people are playing different kinds of music these days.

You are all quite 'normal' looking people. Do you consider yourself to be punks and what does punk mean to you anyway?

Yvan; 'normal looking people': being busy with the fact that someone doesn't fit in a role is quite pathetic. I don't think in terms like punk or whatever. I see people as individuals and that's the way I want to keep it.

Stef; Punk means Do It Yourself and that means that the person or band controls his/hers music from beginning to the end. The venues and the labels are organised by the punks themselves with no interference from outside.

The content of the music (wetter anarchist, communist, vegan/vegetarian...) are separate things, which vary from person to person. According to this 'definition' I consider myself to be punk.

The main problem of this HC/crust/etc scene (in my eyes) is the fact it mainly reaches white, hetero males. No matter all the nice words on sexual freedom, anti-sexism etc. what's your view on it?

Every individual has the chance to be active in the way she/he likes; none can blame a person to be white/male/... But of course 'punk' is a subculture, part of the main culture and

that's why you see the same problems. It's good to be aware of the fact that we are individuals but don't forget that our culture plays a dominant role in our education.

How did you get into this whole punk thing?

Stef; I once got a Crass tape from a friend and was immediately blown away. What I liked about it was their swearing!

And what's your favourite record?

Stef; Too many to mention, at this moment everything by Godspeed You Black Emperor!

What is more important to you when playing in a band, the music, or the lyrics?

Stef; Now the 'rule' would be saying that the lyrics are more important. But to me, when playing in a band, the music is much more important. Nowadays I prefer to read something else than the stereotype black and white punk lyric. I try to live my life the way I feel is right and I don't feel the need anymore to convert others.

Yvan; there's good music without lyrics and good lyrics without music. Both are important expressions and of equal value. Bad music puts down good lyrics and bad lyrics put down good music.

How about the new 7" you told about? When will it see daylight and are there any plans for future releases?

The new 7" will be there someday, but it's better if we don't say when, because it doesn't work out anyway.

About your song "we love hippies not nazis", is this a reaction to the anti-hippie attitude, which seem to be quite common in the so-called punk scene?

Stef; It's one aspect of the song. There's this big hippy cliché in the punk scene and the title refers to that. The song, however, begs to question if beating up skinheads is an effective way in fighting racism and fascism. The big threat are the three-piece suits; the politicians. Nazi-skinheads don't fit in their propaganda either.

Yvan; making a difference between a punk and a hippy is such a stupid thing that I don't want to spend time on this. Fuck this narrow-minded stereotype thinking and try to get a free mind.

Do you consider yourself to be pacifist? If so, what's your view on ALF actions like happened in Belgium the last few years, as played on a benefit for one of the imprisoned ALF activists last year?

Stef; I don't consider myself pacifist, but I prefer handling problems in a pacifist way because I hate violence. I don't have problems with violent actions as long as they are constructive. Smashing up McDonalds during a riot is constructive in my eyes as well. So were the ALF actions in Belgium.

Yvan; I'm not a pacifist, it depends from situation to situation. I support the ALF actions. As individual actions they are useful, but that doesn't mean they change something. Because of this we don't have to blame people who do these actions, but the people who don't have the guts to do what they say. So like the most of us; playing music and partying doesn't mean a thing!

As band you often play in Holland. Is there much difference in between playing in Holland and Belgium?

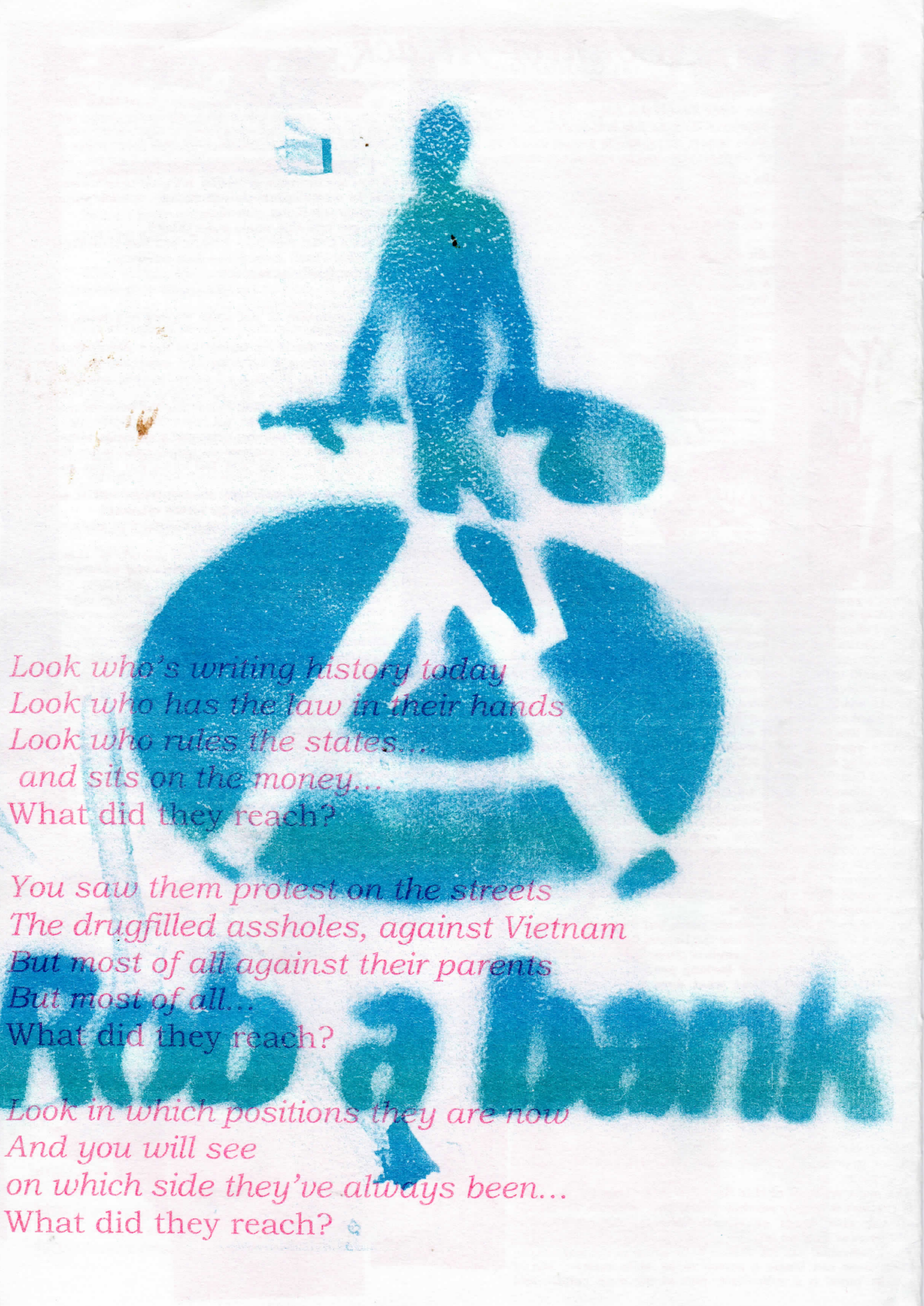
We have played a couple of times in the Netherlands, but not that often. I don't think there's a big difference between Holland and Belgium. Except for the squatting history in the Netherlands. The older squats are much more organised than in Belgium.

Do you have any closing comments?

Thanks for the interview!

People can contact us at stef_irritant@hotmail.com





*Look who's writing history today
Look who has the law in their hands
Look who rules the states...
and sits on the money...
What did they reach?*

*You saw them protest on the streets
The drugfilled assholes, against Vietnam
But most of all against their parents
But most of all...
What did they reach?*

*Look in which positions they are now
And you will see
on which side they've always been...
What did they reach?*